DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
REGIMENTAL NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER ACADEMY
FORT GORDON, GEORGIA 30905-5491

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

ATZH-LCA (310-2d) 14 July 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR Regimental Noncommissioned Officer academy (RNCOA)

SUBJECT: Policy Letter# 26 – Cellular Phone use While Operating a Motor Vehicle

1. This policy letter applies to all military and civilian personnel assigned or attached to the RNCOA. This memorandum outlines the policy governing cell phone usage while operating a motor vehicle on and off the installation.

2. No one may operate a motor vehicle on and off the Fort Gordon installation while using a hand-held cellular phone (which includes a blackberry or similar device) unless the motor vehicle is safely parked or the operator is using the cellular phone as a hands-free cellular phone. Except for an earpiece (or similar devices) designed for use with hands-free cellular phones, wearing any other headphones, earphones, or ear buds while operating a motor vehicle is prohibited. A hands-free cellular phone is one that has a microphone and speaker, or an earpiece (or similar attachment), both of which must allow the driver to place a call and talk with both hands on the steering wheel. This policy does not prohibit the careful use of CB radios or walkie-talkies while operating a motor vehicle.

3. The operator of a motor vehicle who holds a hand-held cellular phone to, or in the immediate vicinity of, his or her ear while such vehicle is in motion is presumed to be using a cellular phone in violation of this policy. "Immediate vicinity" is defined as within 24 inches. The prohibition of this policy also extends to turning on, dialing, and scrolling for data on any cellular phone.

4. As an exception to this policy, a hand-held phone may be used during an emergency.

5. Violators of this order while on post are subject to prosecution under the UCMJ or in Federal court, removal from the installation, revocation of on-post driving privileges, and possible removal from the NCOES course they are attending. Violations of this order while off post may result in administrative sanctions to include possible removal from the NCOES Course they are attending. Failure to comply with state cellular phone laws, however, could result in charges in state court or under the UCMJ.

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6. Branch Chiefs will ensure their personnel are notified of this policy and that its contents are brief during safety briefing.

JOHN L. MURRAY
CSM, USA
Commandant